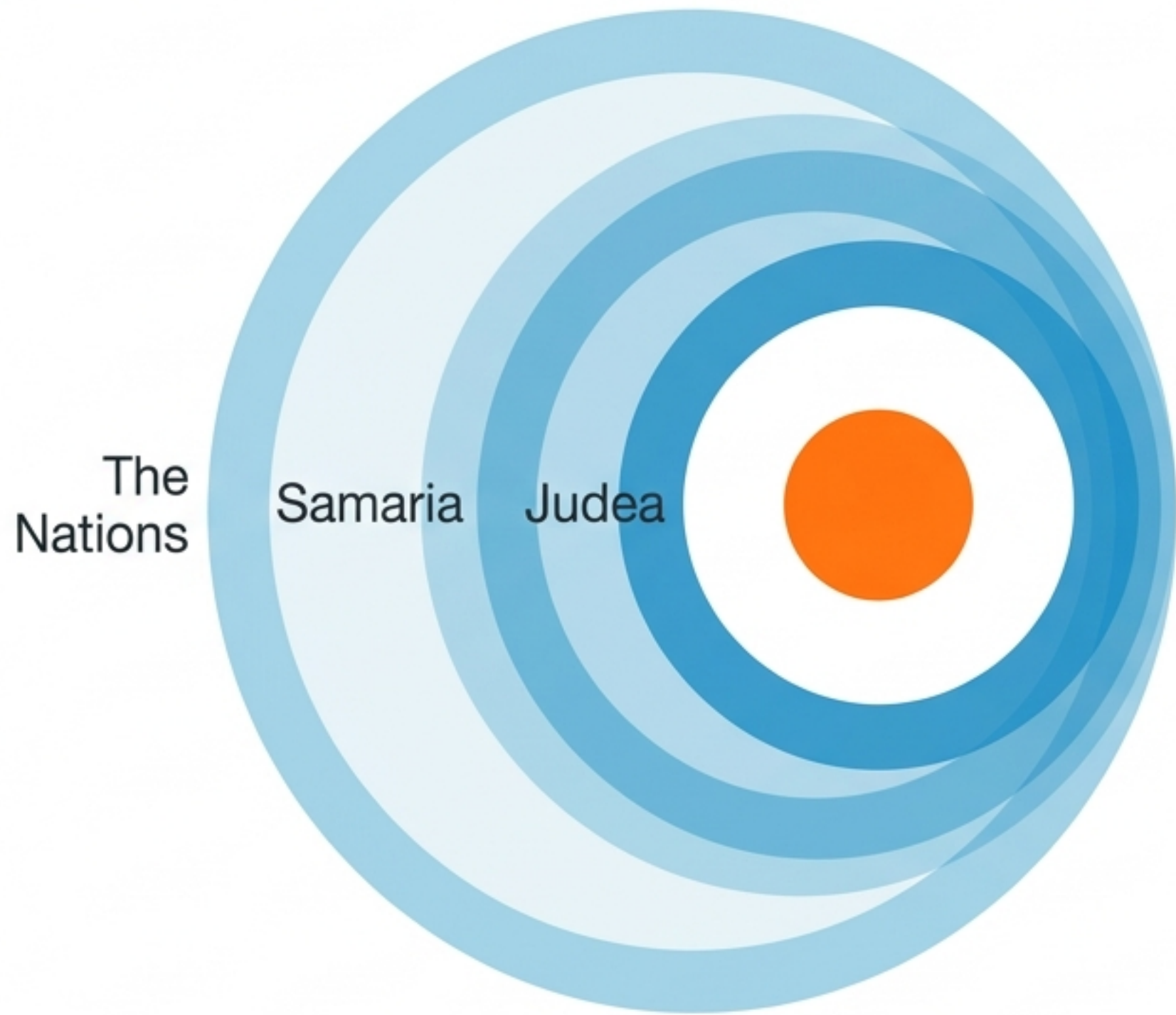


# THE BOOK OF ACTS: Chapters 9–12

## Expanding the Boundaries of the Gospel



# A Pivotal Transition

- The greatest enemy becomes the greatest missionary.
- The door of salvation formally opens to the Gentile world.
- The first intentional “sending church” is born.

Then the churches... had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were **multiplied**. (Acts 9:31)



# Saul of Tarsus: The Divine Interception

**From Persecutor to Pioneer.**

**The Encounter.** The risen Christ personally confronts the Church's greatest enemy on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-4).

**The Mandate.** God designates Saul as His chosen vessel to bear His name to "Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

# The Reality of the Call



## The Promise of Suffering

(Acts 9:16) The missionary call includes expected opposition. Hardship is the norm, not the exception.

## The Power of Community

(Acts 9:17) The greatest missionary needed a local believer—Ananias—for healing, Spirit-infilling, and mentoring.

# Peter & Cornelius: Erasing the Lines

God prepares two hearts simultaneously across a deep cultural divide.

~~UNCLEAN~~ → **CLEANSSED**

**“What God has cleansed you must not call common.” (Acts 10:15)**

# The Gentile Pentecost

The Holy Spirit falls on all who hear the Word (Acts 10:44).

- **Insight 1:** They received the exact same baptism as the Jewish believers at Pentecost (speaking in tongues, magnifying God).
- **Insight 2:** Water baptism immediately followed. Grace is freely available to all nations.



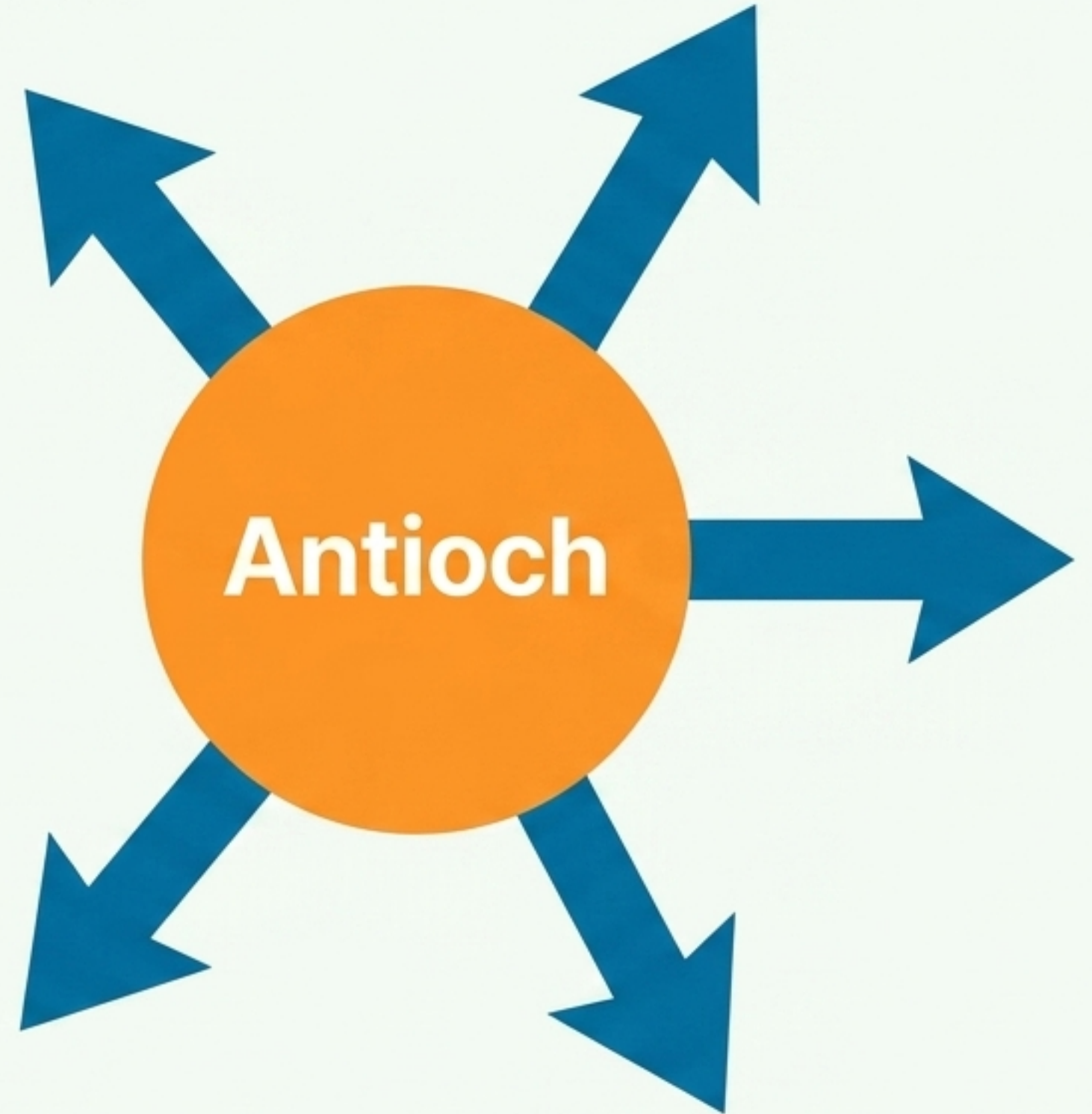
**NOTE FOR AFRICA:** We stand in this exact same grace today.  
The door opened in Acts 10 was the door opened for us.

# The Church at Antioch: The First Sending Base

A new model for the global missionary movement.

**Multicultural.** Believers from Cyprus and Cyrene deliberately preached to Greeks. Diversity fueled explosive growth.

**Theologically Grounded.** Barnabas and Saul spent a full year teaching and grounding the new believers in the Word.



# Marks of a Kingdom-Minded Church

## Missionary Impact

### Christ-Like Character.

The disciples were "first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26) because their lives mirrored Jesus.

### Radical Generosity.

They sent famine relief to Judea. A sending church is always a generous church.

### Enduring Spiritual Battle.

They advanced the gospel despite intense persecution, including the martyrdom of James and imprisonment of Peter (Acts 12).

# PENTECOSTAL APPLICATION

## **The Spirit Knows No Borders.**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the birthright of every culture and nation. We must not limit God to our own cultural patterns.

**The Antioch Model for Africa.** Antioch was a local church—not a western agency—that sent, funded, and prayed for its own missionaries. African churches are uniquely positioned to **adopt this exact biblical model today.**

# Reflection Questions

**1**

**What does Saul's calling teach us about the link between missions and suffering?**

**2**

**How did Peter's vision challenge his cultural prejudices? Are there similar prejudices in our own context?**

**3**

**What specific traits made Antioch an effective sending church?**

**4**

**How does the 'Gentile Pentecost' shape our view of the Holy Spirit's work among unreached people?**

# Prayer Focus

Pray for the conversion of those currently hostile to the gospel—ask God to turn persecutors into powerful missionaries.

Pray for your own local church to develop the sending culture, the diversity, and the radical generosity of the Antioch church.



# Action Step for this Week

**Task:** Research one missionary-sending church in Nigeria or Uganda that operates on the Antioch model (a local church sending its own).

**Examine:** How do they send, support, and pray for their own missionaries?

**Reflect:** Write a one-page reflection on how your own local church could begin moving in this exact direction.

